

Gower Cycle Network

Notes of meeting on 14th October 2022

in the Civic Centre, Swansea.

Present

CCS:

Chris Lindley (CL) AONB Team Leader;
Paul Meller (PM) Manager of Natural Environment Section;
Jack Palmer (JP) Active Travel Officer.

Wheelrights

Nick Guy (NG) Member;
David Naylor (DN) CUK Swansea rep.;
Dareyoush Rassi (DR) Wheelrights Secretary.

Apologies

Joe Muldoon (JM) Wheelrights member.

Background

PM gave the background to the proposed Gower Cycle Network. He noted that there were problems including concerns of landowners, horse riders and ramblers to take into account. CCS have done a H&S risk assessment and suggested grading of the routes – according to their level of challenge - CCS is taking that under consideration.

1. **Wheelrights survey**

DN reported on Wheelrights survey of the Network. PM thanked Wheelrights and said that the information (contained in the report GowerCN.pdf previously sent to CCS) was useful, and will be considered along with other feedback.

2. **Other Gower routes**

DN tabled a map (GowerCR.pdf) showing the routes recommended at the two Wheelrights workshops (See <https://www.wheelrights.org.uk/news/notes.htm>. The workshops were on 1 May 2018 and 12 March 2022; scroll to Notes of Routes Group meetings.) He emphasized the importance of these routes for their tourist and leisure potential (and some of them also for active travel) and suggested that they either come under the umbrella of the Gower Cycle Network or be dealt with separately. He mentioned in particular the need for a cycleable route between Hillend and Rhossili. The relative merits of the existing bridleway and a route through the Hillend caravan site and flats above the beach were discussed. DN had recently cycled the bridleway on his hybrid and found that only minor upgrading was needed to make it suitable for ordinary (non-mountain biking) cyclists. JM had a video record of the full length of the bridleway. The CCS officers indicated that they would consider this. CCS highlighted that cycling along footpath sections of the route/Gower Coast path is prohibited – and there are no plans to change this.

DR said that WR fully supported CCS officers in their aims to provide more cycling opportunities on Gower. As well as catering for tourists these new routes should encourage Swansea residents to explore the beauties of Gower by bike.

In addition Wheelrights advised that they are campaigning for provision of the 'missing link' in the existing route between Penclawdd and Gowerton, and DN noted that the formation of a Pennard Active Travel (PAT) group to promote active in that area is being considered.

3. **E-bike charging points**

NG noted that there were technical challenges but advised that Dennis Dwyer of Ripples Café was interested in a pilot scheme. Locating them at cafés had advantages with the offer of refreshments while the bike charges. Other potential locations included the Railway Inn and the Gower Heritage Centre. Sustrans were interested. JP suggested we stick with private companies rather than CCS for now.

4. **Follow up meeting?**

NG suggested we meet again in 2023.